

What is claimed is:

- Sub B2
- 1 1. In a network including a client system and a plurality of servers including a host  
2 server, the plurality of servers hosting application programs, a method for presenting to  
3 the client system application programs that are available for use, the method comprising  
4 the steps of:  
5 (a) receiving by a host server application-related information corresponding to  
6 application programs hosted by at least one of a plurality of servers;  
7 (b) receiving by the host system user credentials from a client system;  
8 (c) determining for each hosted application program whether that hosted application  
9 program is available to the client system based on the user credentials and the  
10 application-related information;  
11 (d) creating an output display indicating each hosted application program that is available  
12 to the client system for execution; and  
13 (e) transmitting the created output display to the client system.
  - 1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein step (a) further comprises receiving by a web  
2 server application-related information corresponding to application programs hosted by at  
3 least one of a plurality of servers.
  - 1 3. The method of claim 2 further comprising the steps of:  
2 (a) parsing an SGML document;

3 (b) retrieving, responsive to the parsed SGML document, application-related information  
4 corresponding to application programs hosted by at least one of the plurality of  
5 servers.

1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein step (b) comprises receiving by the host system  
2 biometric user credentials from a client system.

3 5. The method of claim 1 wherein step (b) comprises receiving by the host system  
4 encrypted user credentials from a client system.

5 6. The method of claim 1 wherein step (b) further comprises:

6 (b-a) receiving by the host system user credentials from a client system;

7 (b-b) authenticating at the host server the user of the client system based on the received  
8 user credentials; and

9 (b-c) executing a selected one of the available application programs hosted by one of the  
10 plurality of servers without requiring further receipt of user credentials from the client  
11 system.

12 7. The method of claim 1 wherein step (d) comprises creating an SGML output  
13 display indicating each hosted application program that is available to the client system  
14 for execution.

15 8. The method of claim 1 wherein step (d) comprises creating an HTML output  
16 display indicating each hosted application program that is available to the client system  
17 for execution.

18 9. The method of claim 1 wherein step (d) comprises creating an output display  
19 representing the available application programs as icons in a graphical user interface  
20 window.

1 10. The method of claim 1 wherein step (e) comprises transmitting the created output  
2 display to the client system using HTTP

1 11. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:  
2 (f) receiving a request to execute one of the available hosted application programs; and  
3 (h) executing the requested application program.

1 12. The method of claim 11 wherein step (h) further comprises executing the  
2 requested application in a window contained in the output display page.

1 13. The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of establishing a connection  
2 between the client system and the server hosting the requested application.

1 14. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of communicating, by the host  
2 server, with the plurality of servers in order to determine application programs hosted by  
3 the plurality of servers.

1 15. In a network including a web server and a server hosting at least one application, a  
2 method for displaying each application available to a client system, the method  
3 comprising the steps of:  
4 (a) receiving user credentials from the client system;

- 5 (b) maintaining application-related information corresponding to each application  
6 program hosted by the server;
- 7 (c) determining whether each application program hosted by the server is available for  
8 use by a user of the client system based on the user credentials and the  
9 application-related information;
- 10 (d) creating, responsive to the determination, an output display indicating each hosted  
11 application program that is available to the client system for execution; and
- 12 (d) transmitting the created output display to the client system.

- Sub D3  
16 In a network including a client system and a plurality of servers hosting  
17 applications, a web server comprising:
- 18 a service module collecting application-related information corresponding to application  
19 programs hosted by the plurality of servers;
- 20 a receiver receiving user credentials from the client system;
- 21 a database storing the collected application-related information wherein the service  
22 module determines for each application program hosted by the plurality of servers  
23 whether that hosted application program is available to the client system for  
24 execution based on the user credentials and the application-related information  
25 stored in the database;
- 26 an output display creation engine creating output displays indicating each hosted program  
27 available to the client system for execution; and
- 28 a transmitter transmitting created output displays to the client system.

1 17. The server of claim 16 wherein said service module transmits a datagram to the  
2 plurality of servers to collect the application-related information corresponding to the  
3 application programs hosted by those servers.

1 18. The server of claim 16 wherein said output display creation engine parses SGML  
2 document templates.

1 19. The server of claim 18 wherein said transmitter transmits available application  
2 information using HTTP.

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B1